

Charles James Wild (1853–1923), an ardent collector of Queensland bryophytes

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Summary

Franks, A.J. (2019). Charles James Wild (1853–1923), an ardent collector of Queensland bryophytes. *Austrobaileya* 10(3): 383–404. Charles James (C.J.) Wild was an early collector and documenter of the Queensland bryophyte flora. Born in Manchester in 1853 and trained as a joiner, Wild gravitated towards natural history before immigrating to the Queensland colony in 1883. Wild would become a familiar figure among the naturalist and scientific circles of Brisbane, becoming a member of a number of societies including the Royal Society of Queensland and the short-lived Natural History Society. He was in the employ of the Queensland Museum from 1889 until 1911 where his initial role was as an insect collector before becoming acting director (1905–1911). Wild has been commemorated in the names of several bryophyte and fern species, a species of butterfly, a moth, a gall midge and a fish. The location, significance and diversity of his bryophyte collections are detailed in addition to general insights into his life and times.

Key Words: Charles James Wild, Australian historical botany, Australian bryophytes, herbarium specimens, Queensland flora, Queensland Museum, Royal Society of Queensland, Natural History Society of Queensland

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Introduction

Those who are familiar with the bryophyte flora of Queensland would have most certainly come across early collections made by Charles James (C.J.) Wild. A contemporary of the more widely known colonial botanist Frederick Manson (F.M.) Bailey, Wild was an early collector and documenter of the Queensland bryophyte flora. While employed as an insect collector at the Queensland Museum, Wild's interests in natural history saw him not only collecting insects but also shells and bryophytes wherever he was sent. Bailey (1891) in his 'A Concise History of Australian Botany' provides a brief account of Wild stating that he travelled over a large area of the state and collected several new species. He is also given a brief mention in Ramsay's (2006) 'History of Research on Australian Mosses'. However, Wild is not listed in Maiden's (1909) 'Records of Queensland Botanists' nor in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* (ADB 2006–2017). Despite this, his contribution to the early documentation of

the Queensland bryophyte flora is significant and worthy of acknowledgement. It is hoped that this paper will shed some light on the life and times of this 'worthy student of nature and ardent naturalist'⁹.

Materials and methods

An initial spreadsheet of Wild's plant collections was compiled from the Queensland Herbarium's (BRI) specimen database (Herbrecs). Details of specimens accessioned at other Australian herbaria were extracted from the *Australasian Virtual Herbarium* (AVH 2017). JStor Global Plants and online databases of a number of international herbaria were also queried for Wild specimens. The *United Kingdom General Register Office* was queried for records of birth and deaths of Wild, Wild's parents and brother. The *Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages* was queried for details of Wild's marriage, birth of his children and death. The *National Library of Australia's 'Trove'* website (NLA 2009-onwards) has been used extensively, to find mentions of Wild, the Queensland Museum, the Natural History Society, and other relevant topics published in newspapers

of the time. Scanned historical journals and articles were located through the *Biodiversity Heritage Library*. Mather's (1986) history of the Queensland Museum provided valuable insights into Wild's time with the museum. The Queensland Museum library holds all correspondence received and sent by Wild during his time of employment some of which were viewed for the preparation of this account. Herbarium abbreviations follow Thiers (continuously updated).

Results and discussion

Early History (1853–1883)

Charles James Wild (**Fig. 1**) was born on 19 March 1853 at Macclesfield, Cheshire, England to the south of Manchester¹. Charles was the eldest child of Robert Wild (b. 1824, d. 1885), a joiner, and Hannah (*née* Salt, b. 1828, d. 1882). Two months later on the 22 of May he was baptised at Prestwich, Manchester². At the time of Charles' birth, the Wildⁱ family lived at Langford Street, Macclesfield. Charles' younger brother, Robert was born in 1859. By 1861 the Wild family were residing at Mill Hill, Newmarket, Suffolk and had been since Robert's birth two years prior³. Robert senior was employed as a carpenter and foreman at this time. Tragedy struck on July 9, 1867 when 8 year old Robert died of marasmus, a severe form of malnutrition characterised by a deficiency of protein⁴. Charles was 14 at the time of Robert's death. At this time, the Wild family were once again living in the northwest at 128 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester. The 1871 census indicates that the head of the family, Robert, was employed as a joiner with his wife, Hannah, listed as a china dealer⁵. No occupation was listed for the then 18 year old Charles.

The Wild family were still residing at Cheetham Hill Road during the 1881 census with Robert now listed as a china and glass dealer and 28 year old Charles following in his

father's footsteps and working as a joiner⁶. By this time, Wild had collected over 170 plant specimens, mainly bryophytes, from various locations in Wales, Scotland, and the northwest of England. These included type material for the liverwort *Gymnomitrion crassifolium* Carrington described by Benjamin Carrington from a specimen collected by Wild from Ptarmigan, Perthshire, Scotland during August 1878⁷. Carrington's article also describes one of many misfortunes that seemed to plague Wild's field endeavours throughout his career: "Mr. Wild, who was fortunate enough last summer to stumble upon it – literally – since it was after a fall producing severe injury to the knee, and making frequent rests necessary, that this gentleman collected the species..."⁷.

To maintain and demonstrate their status, the lower middle class (to which the Wild family belonged) had to keep some semblance of a household (Anderson 1977; Loftus 2011). It was expected that a family would have at least one, if not more, domestic servants. In the lower-middle-class household, this may have consisted of a general servant. As is evident in the 1871 and 1881 census, the Wild household also included a general servant: 17 year old Cath Asply in 1871 and 24 year old Catherine Haskey in 1881^{5,6}. The occupation of Charles' father, Robert, was variously listed as carpenter and foreman (1861 census), joiner (1871), and a glass and china dealer (1881). Only affording a single servant, the Wild household most likely fell within the lower middle-class. As such, the young Charles Wild may have been exposed to natural history in his leisurely pursuits outside of his working hours as a joiner.

A number of prominent English bryologists emerged from the burgeoning Victorian middle-class including many whose primary occupations were within the textile industry (Lawley 2015). The eminent

ⁱ The spelling of the Wild surname varied throughout census records. In 1861 it was spelled as Wild. In 1871 it appears as Wyld and in 1881 as Wilde. Despite the variation in spelling, the household structure (Robert as head and Hannah as his spouse) and progression of ages remain consistent.



Fig. 1. Undated photograph of C.J.Wild. Original photograph has been lost. Reproduced by kind permission of the Queensland Museum from Mather (1986).

bryologist William Henry Pearson (1849–1923), for example, worked primarily as a yarn agent in Manchester and yet published the two volume *Hepaticae of the British Isles* (in 1899 and 1902) (Lawley 2015). Pearson and Wild collected a number of liverworts together from Wales during 1878 which are now accessioned in the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh (E).

Based on specimens accessioned in a number of herbaria around the world, Wild's interest in bryophytes appears to have been a gradually growing affair. His likely first collections of bryophytes were two mosses, *Ptychomitrium polyphyllum* (Sw.) Bruch & Schimp. and *Ulota bruchii* Hornsch. ex Brid., made during 1874 by the 21 year old Wild from Millers Dale, Derbyshire. Wild then made three collections of *Racomitrium* species during 1875 followed by 10 specimens collected in 1876. During 1877, Wild was listed as an additional member of the Botanical Locality Record Club⁸ and it was at this time that he started collecting bryophytes in earnest. Between 1877 and 1883 Wild collected over 250 specimens, mainly mosses and liverworts, from various locations in Wales, Scotland and the northwest of England.

Further to his interest in botany, Wild was also attracted to entomology and conchology and was an ardent student of other branches of science, including archaeology and ethnology⁹. In addition to being a member of the Botanical Locality Record Club, Wild's obituary lists a number of British learned societies in which he was an active member, including the Manchester Microscopical Society, Berwickshire Naturalists Club, Lancashire Botanists Association and Forfarshire Naturalists Society¹⁰.

On August 18, 1883, a little over a year after his mother's death, the 30 year old Wild

boarded the Ducal Line 4-mast steamer, the *Duke of Devonshire* at Plymouth bound for the colony of Queensland. Wild never returned to his homeland.

Early days in Queensland (1883–1889)

The *Duke of Devonshire* arrived in Brisbane via Cooktown and northern ports on October 12, 1883¹⁰. A "Chas Wild" born "abt 1853" was listed as an assisted immigrant indicating that his passage was subsidised or paid for through one of several assisted immigration schemes which were in operation at the time. The Brisbane that welcomed Wild was far removed from the convict settlement of the early 1800s. By October 1883 Brisbane was a small, bustling metropolis with a population of around 47,000 people. Thomas McIlwraith, a conservative, was in the final throes of his time as Premier, about to be voted out of office the following month and replaced by Samuel Walter Griffith. In 1883 the Queensland Colonial Botanist, F.M.Bailey, published *A Synopsis of the Queensland Flora* in which he recorded about 140 species of bryophytes (Bailey 1883). In his synopsis, Bailey describes the features of each genus and then lists the species within each genus that had been reported for Queensland (Lepp 2012). Species descriptions and illustrations were not included. The Synopsis was followed by three supplements (in 1886, 1888 and 1890) which recorded additional species with the third supplement (Bailey 1890) including illustrations of some bryophyte species.

Wild's vocation during his early days in the colony is unclear; however, as an assisted migrant, he most likely initially worked in his trade. If Wild's specimen collection dates are correct, he almost immediately made his way to Toowoomba collecting 20 bryophyte specimens in this locality during November 1883¹¹. A major storm passed through Toowoomba on the 11 of

¹⁰While Wild's obituary lists a number of societies to which he supposedly belonged, I found no evidence of his membership or whether some of these learned societies actually existed. However, his accessioned specimens do reflect that he collected over a broad area and if the collection dates are accurate indicates that he visited Wales and Scotland a number of times presumably as part of one these societies.

November¹² and perhaps joiners were in demand to repair damaged buildings in the region. Between 1884 and 1885, Wild made a handful of bryophyte collections from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens (three specimens) and Enoggera (12 specimens)¹¹. His interest in shells remained prominent with the curator of the Queensland Museum reporting to the Board of Trustees that "Mr. C.J.Wild" donated 16 shells to the museum collected from Comboyuro (Moreton Island)¹³.

On Wednesday, October 6, 1886, the first meeting of the Field Naturalists Club was convened, this being a section of the Royal Society of Queensland¹⁴. F.M.Bailey was elected chairman of the section and conducted the section's first excursion three days later to the Queensland Acclimatisation Society gardens at Bowen Park. On November 13, 1886, the Field Naturalists Club undertook an excursion to swamp lying between the Brisbane River and racecourse (Hamilton) then towards Nundah. It appears highly likely that Wild was part of this excursion as specimens of *Sematophyllum subhumile* (Müll.Hal.) M.Fleisch. and *Cephalozia hirta* (Steph.) R.M.Schust. were collected by him from Hamilton and Toombul respectively during November 1886, the latter forming material for the type specimen.

1887 was the start of a relatively intensive period of bryophyte collecting by Wild. Between May and August 1887, Wild collected 177 specimens of 93 taxa, mainly from the Pimpama and Beenleigh region south of Brisbane. Included in these collections were the type materials for the following taxa: *Lepidozia reversa* Carrington & Pearson (= *Kurzia reversa* (Carrington & Pearson) Grolle), *Lejeunea wildii* Steph. (= *Acrolejeunea securifolia* (Nees) Steph. & Watts) and *Fissidens arboreus* Broth. (= *F. oblongifolius* var. *hyophilus* (Mitt.) Beever & I.G.Stone). In addition to the numerous bryophyte specimens collected by Wild from Pimpama, it appears that he also collected a number of insects and shells. The monthly meeting of the Queensland Museum board of trustees held during October 1887 notes that "Mr. J.Wild" donated a miscellaneous

collection of insects from Pimpama and "Mr. W.Wild" donated a number of "land and fresh water shells from Pimpama, including eight species of helix and shells, representing a single species of each of the following genera, namely *Balinus*, *Physa*, *Lymnaea*, *Bithynia*, *Planorbis*, and *Valvata*"¹⁵.

Wild would become a familiar figure among the naturalist and scientific circles of Brisbane as a member of a number societies including the Royal Society of Queensland, Queensland's first scientific society, formed in 1884, arising from the Queensland Philosophical Society (RSQ 2017). On the evening of September 9, 1887, the Royal Society of Queensland held its monthly meeting in the Queensland Museum library with "Mr. J.C.Wild" listed among the visitors¹⁶. This appears to be the start of a long association between Wild and the Royal Society of Queensland.

From October 1887 into the first half of 1888, Wild appeared to shift his focus to areas north of Brisbane, making numerous collections of bryophytes mainly from the Burpengary and Deception Bay area including type materials of *Fissidens calodictyon* Broth. (= *F. beckettii* Mitt.) and *Macromitrium mucronulatum* Müll.Hal. (= *M. brevicaule* (Besch.) Broth.). Again, the monthly meeting notes of the Queensland Museum board of trustees convened in January and March 1888 record that Wild made donations of various land and marine shells collected from Burpengary^{17,18}. These Burpengary collections may allude to Wild's association with Dr. Joseph Bancroft as Bancroft had purchased 150 acres of land on Burpengary Creek during 1881, and subsequently extended this by purchasing sea-front land at nearby Deception Bay (Pearn 1992). By 1890, Bancroft owned 3,780 acres of relatively fertile land in this area where he established a pemmican meatworks, a cultured pearl enterprise, and experimental plots of sugarcane, rice, wheat and barley (Pearn 1992). In his day, Joseph Bancroft was one of Queensland's leading scientists, being at various times vice-president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science and president

of the Queensland Medical Board, the Royal Society of Queensland and the Medical Society of Queensland (ADB 2006–2017). Wild's obituary states that he spent some time with "Dr. Bancroft in the southern districts", which may refer to this period⁹.

Wild also made two moss collections from Three Mile Scrub during July 1888. Bancroft's *Kelvin Grove* homestead was situated on five hectares of land on the banks of Enoggera Creek at the Three Mile Scrub (Pearn 1992). In the latter half of 1888, Wild collected 29 specimens from Woolston Scrub (**Fig. 2**) during a Field Naturalists' excursion to this now extirpated patch of vineforest on the banks of the Brisbane River, "extending from a point almost directly west from Woolston Railway Station, two or three miles towards Goodna" (Simmonds 1888). This included type material for the genus *Wildia* Müll.Hal. & Broth., named in Wild's honour. *Wildia solmsiellacea* Müll. Hal. & Broth. is now reduced to synonymy as *Solmsiella solmsiellaceum* (Müll.Hal. & Broth.) I.G.Stone.

"Mr. C.J.Wilde" was proposed as a subscribing member to the Royal Society of Queensland by Mr. Watkins and seconded by Mr. C.Hedley during the monthly meeting held on August 17, 1888¹⁹. Wild's membership was accepted with "C.J.Wild, esq." listed as a new member of the Royal Society of Queensland on September 11, 1888. On Friday October 12, 1888, the then 35 year old Wild presented a paper at the monthly Royal Society of Queensland meeting in the offices of the Education Department on Edward Street, Brisbane entitled 'Description of new mosses and hepatics'²⁰. The following month, Wild contributed another bryological paper to the Royal Society of Queensland meeting called 'A new list of hepatics'²¹. Wild's first five years of collecting bryophytes in the south-eastern part of the colony culminated in the publication of three articles in the 1888 *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* (Wild 1888a, 1888b, 1888c). These appear to be Wild's first published papers and were additions, descriptions or corrections to the bryophyte species list

presented in Bailey's Synopsis, and the first and second supplements. Wild (1888a) offers this extraordinary claim in his first article:

"The Queensland moss flora, a very small one, should not offer many difficulties in the compilation of a mere list".

It appears likely that Wild corresponded and exchanged specimens with British and European bryologists particularly Benjamin Carrington, Franz Stephani, Karl Müller, and Viktor Brotherus due to the authorship of new species names based on material collected by Wild and his peers. Two letters written by Wild to the Finnish bryologist Brotherus are available in the Research Library of the National Library of Finland. Wild penned his first letter to Brotherus on September 3, 1888 where he asks for assistance with the study of Queensland mosses.

Brisbane Sept^r 3rd 88

Dear Sir

*Can you assist me in the study of Australian mosses, 1st by authentic specimens correctly named, 2nd by descriptions of such species as you have named which are not yet published, 3rd by naming specimens which I could send you from time to time. I have about 120 species of Queensland mosses named, and about 30 species unnamed, many of them new to science. If any of those that I should send proves to be new I should expect a description of it, I could get it printed here, in all cases you should have due honor [sic] as the describer, if in addition you drew a figure of it, I will take the pains to get it lithographed. Much confusion has been caused here owing to species being named by various specialists, and no descriptions being published, or else in various works scattered over the world in many different languages. I think each species should be described in Latin and the remarks in the language spoken were [sic] the plants were found. I could send you mosses in quantity if you required them. Could I obtain type specimen of mosses named by Dr. Karl Mueller. Could you point out to me the difference between *Phyllogonium elegans* Hampe (*Acroceratium politum* Hook. & Wils.) & *Acroceratium cymbifoloides* C.Mueller; even under an [sic] high power I can detect no difference.*

I remain Yours Faithfully

C.J.Wild

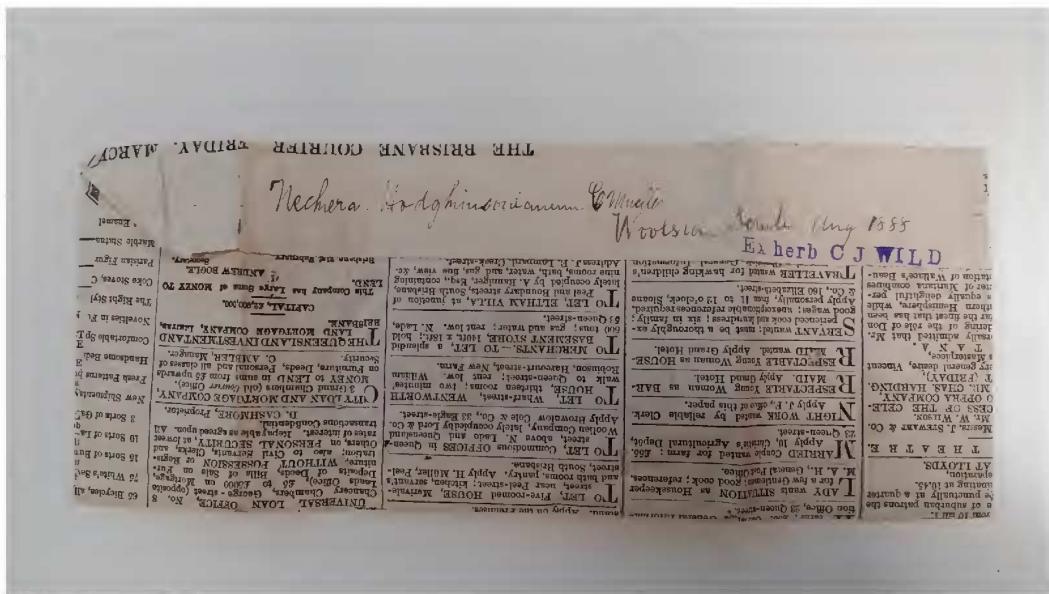


Fig. 2. Collection of *Calyptothecium recurvulum* (BRI [AQ642216]) made by C.J.Wild from Woolston Scrub, August 1888. Many of Wild's collections at the Queensland Herbarium remain in the original packet used for collection, in this case a page from The Brisbane Courier, 2 March 1888.

On October 22, 1888 the Field Naturalists Club held an excursion to a number of scrub areas around Caboolture. Again, it appears that Wild was in attendance as 12 bryophyte specimens were collected by him from Caboolture during October. As 1888 drew to a close, Wild collected 40 bryophyte specimens from Helidon and Highfields including type materials for *Barbula wildii* Broth. (= *Didymodon tophaceus* (Brid.) Lisa), *Plagiobryum wildii* Broth. (= *P. cellulare* (Hook.) J.R.Spence & H.P.Ramsay), and *Weissia squarrosa* Broth. ex F.M.Bailey (= *Barbula subcalycina* Müll.Hal.). In total Wild collected 185 bryophyte specimens during 1888 in addition to the shells that were donated to the Queensland Museum conchological collection.

The Museum Years (1889-1911)

During early January 1889, the curator of the Queensland Museum, Charles de Vis, offered to allocate his Sunday allowance to support a new insect collector position if a subordinate could replace him in the museum on Sundays (Mather 1986). De Vis' offer motivated the museum's Board of Trustees to allocate contingency funds to support the temporary position of a collector (Mather 1986). Hence, on January 14, 1889, the 36 year old Wild was appointed to the Queensland Museum as an insect collector on 30 shillings per week.

In his monthly report to the board of trustees, de Vis reported that the "newly appointed insect collector (Mr. Wild) displays most commendable zeal and his success so far is promising"²². On February 11, Wild penned a second letter to Brotherus thanking him for copies of articles sent in response to his first letter. He also asks whether he could send specimens for determination, "if you agree to such conditions I will send you specimen of every moss which I have collected and am unacquainted with, they number at least 60". Wild also asks for Brotherus to "clear up the confusion that at present seems to surround *Rhizogonium mossmanianum* C.Muell." and states his intention "to translate your description of the 3 new species (to

Queensland) of mosses for the next meeting, Royal Society & get them published in the proceedings"²³.

The Royal Society convened their next monthly meeting during the evening of Friday 15 February at the offices of the Education Department on Edward Street. Wild delivered a paper entitled 'Bryological Notes' in which he "gave a description of five new mosses and a new hepatic, and, by permission of F.M.Bailey, reported three other new mosses collected by the writer"²⁴. In this paper, and the subsequent article appearing in the Proceedings (Wild 1889), Wild did indeed provide a translation of Brotherus' newly described species of moss collected by Bailey, these being: *Splachnobryum baileyi* Broth. (= *S. obtusum* (Brid.) Müll.Hal.), *Meteoriump baileyi* (Broth.) Broth. (= *M. polytrichum* Dozy & Molk.), and *Isopterygium robustum* Broth. (= *Taxiphyllum taxirameum* (Mitt.) M.Fleisch.). He also included descriptions of *Macromitrium pusillum* Mitt. (= *M. archeri* Mitt.) and *Rhizogonium paramattense* (Müll.Hal.) Reichardt (= *Pyrrhobryum paramattense* (Müll.Hal.) Manuel). Wild also listed additional species described by Karl Müller based on material collected by Wild which were forwarded to Müller by Bailey (Wild 1889).

The monthly curators report to the museum's Board of Trustees in March 1889 stated that the insect collector (Wild) had made satisfactory progress during the past month, with "his collection numbering in all 2,234 specimens"²⁵. However, it is apparent that Wild was not only collecting insects, as was his requirement, but also collecting bryophytes and shells. Wild's bryophyte specimens collected during March and April 1889 had him around the Nerang and Mudgeeraba area of what would later become known as the Gold Coast. De Vis' April report to the board states that "the insect collector is pursuing his work in the vicinity of Nerang, but reports that it is not rich in insect life and that it will be necessary for him to proceed to another locality"²⁶. Unfavourable weather the following month prevented Wild continuing

collecting insects and necessitated his return to Brisbane²⁷. After only four months with the museum, Wild wrote to the trustees requesting an increase of his salary, stating “it is not possible for me to meet expenses on the amount I am now paid”.

Early in June, F.M.Bailey departed Brisbane for Cairns on the *Elamang* as part of Archibald Meston’s ascent of the Bellenden Ker range (Dowe & Broughton 2007). Bailey was the expedition botanist and he collected prodigiously during the exploration of the range, with his collections including many bryophyte specimens (Dowe & Broughton 2007). This was the first significant collection of bryophytes from the Wet Tropics region of north Queensland. After a brief sojourn back in Brisbane, Wild was once again dispatched to the southern parts of the colony to collect insects, this time around Burleigh Heads. As was his want, he also collected bryophytes and shells with the curator’s monthly report stating that the “officer in charge of the conchological department reports having received a large and varied collection of shells from the museum collector, Mr. C.Wild, who has been pursuing his duties in the neighbourhood of Burleigh Heads”²⁸. In a letter to de Vis penned on the 13 of July, Wild states that he had “collected and prepared over 3000 specimens representing 33 species of shells”. By September, Wild was again collecting north of Brisbane with de Vis reporting that “the insect collector reports having had good success at the Glasshouse Mountains”²⁹.

On July 1, 1890, the ship *Warrego* departed Brisbane for Burkettown via northern ports with Wild listed as a passenger³⁰. Wild had been dispatched to north Queensland by the museum to collect insects, especially along the railway being constructed between Cairns and Herberton (Mather 1986). He was to remain in the area for 16 months and collected some 290 plant specimens with almost half being bryophytes. While the museum’s insect collection “today bears little evidence of specimens” from Wild’s time in the north (Mather 1986), his collection of bryophytes represent the first major collection of these

plants from the Wet Tropics adding to the 70 specimens that Bailey collected from the Bellenden Ker range expedition the previous year.

Wild appears to have had some success with his insect collecting in the north, with the curator reporting to the museum’s Board of Trustees that “Mr. Wild managed to secure no less than seventy-eight [butterflies] during the month of October only, a number which no doubt could have been augmented had common insects already sent down been included” and that “Mr Wild adds twenty to the number of butterflies already procured by him in the Cairns district”³¹. It appears that Wild made regular consignments from the Cairns region with the February 1891 review of accessions to the museum noting that “the insect collector (Mr. Wild) has filled another consignment from the Cairns district. In this collection the butterflies, which have yet to be examined, comprise about sixty species. Among them are several rare and interesting insects, and one entirely new to science has been named by Mr. Miskin, and will be noticed in that naturalist’s forthcoming work on the butterflies of Australia”³². Museum trustee Miskin was an amateur lepidopterist, describing butterflies collected by Wild in the Cairns area and naming them in Wild’s honour (Mather 1986). Hence the oakblue butterfly, *Arhopala wildei* and the moth *Ambulyx wildei* are named for Wild although being a consistent misspelling of his surname.

Wild appeared to be diligently fulfilling his role in the north during the early part of 1891, by forwarding “a large and well filled box of insects of all orders, the product of his work at Cairns during the month of February. This collection is especially rich in the smaller species, and contains many novelties”³³. On March 20, 1891 it was announced that F.M.Bailey, C.Hedley of the museum, and Wild had been made fellows of the Linnean Society of London³⁴. In June, the assistant curator reported that the museum’s insect collections had been “principally enriched by the exertions of the entomological collector, Mr. C.J.Wild”³⁵. The report in August was much less encouraging, stating that nothing

was received from the collectors in the field with Wild having the “ill fortune to lose his collecting gear from the back of a runaway packhorse”³⁶. Wild had planned to ascend Mt Bartle Frere with Mr. G.Clark but the loss of his packhorse on the way to the Mulgrave River curtailed this plan³⁷. After this unfortunate event, Wild was instructed “to travel less continuously but as a rule remain in each locality for not less than 3 months” (Mather 1986). A little later it was thought “advisable that the insect collector should be transferred to some other fields of labour” and he was recalled to Brisbane (Mather 1986). Wild arrived back in Brisbane on board the *Aramac* on November 5, 1891 thus ending his time in the north³⁸. What is particularly intriguing is that after his efforts in north Queensland, Wild largely ceased collecting bryophytes with only two additional specimens being collected after 1891.

During the Royal Society of Queensland’s meeting held on December 11, 1891, Mr. Watkins read a short paper on behalf of Bailey entitled, ‘Remarks upon some botanic specimens, chiefly ferns, obtained by Mr. C.J.Wild F.L.S., of the Queensland Museum, while collecting insects in tropical Queensland’³⁹. Wild presented two mosses to the meeting, these being *Braunia humboldtii* (Hook.) Hook.f. (= *Rhacocarpus purpurascens* (Brid.) Paris) and *Hypopterygium pallens* (Hook. f. & Wilson) Mitt. (= *Lopidium concinnum* (Hook.) Wilson)⁴⁰. It is not apparent where Wild obtained these specimens.

By 1891, excursions by the Field Naturalists section of the Royal Society of Queensland had become increasingly irregular (Dowe 2017). As a response, a meeting was convened by Wild’s museum colleague Henry Tryon on Thursday, January 14, 1892 to form a natural history society with the motion, “that we, as students of natural history, constitute ourselves that Natural History Society of Queensland”⁴¹. Wild was elected as a member of council⁴¹. The Natural History Society held its first excursion nine days later to Butcher’s Paddock, Indooroopilly with those in attendance “armed with the usual entomological and geological

impediments”⁴². It appears that at this time Wild shifted his energies away from the Royal Society and focused more on the newly formed Natural History Society by exhibiting “a fine collection of hemiptera, captured by him in Victoria Park” in February⁴³ and then “a large number of ferns collected by him in the Cairns and Herberton districts” in March⁴⁴. At the April meeting of the society, Wild displayed microscopical slides of fern sections and mosses⁴⁵ and in June “exhibited the more interesting of the plants obtained by him during the recent excursion of the members to Dunwich [North Stradbroke Island]”⁴⁶.

Wild, now 39, wedded 24 year old Jessica (Jessie) Walker Marshall (b. 1869 Dundee, Scotland, d. 1928 Dalby) on Wednesday July 27, 1892 at the residence of Mrs. Peardon in Bowen Street, Spring Hill, Brisbane⁴⁷. Jessie had arrived in Brisbane from Scotland on board the *SS Gulf of Carpentaria* seven years prior in 1885. Wild apparently still harboured an interest in bryophytes as at the August meeting of the Natural History Society, he displayed “a named series of living specimens of mosses and hepaticas, comprising twenty species of the former and eight of the latter” collected by him “during lunch hour, within half a mile of the museum”⁴⁸. At this time the museum was located at William Street in Brisbane near the banks of the Brisbane River. In December 1892, after four years of temporary employment, Wild was placed on the permanent staff after both de Vis and trustee Joseph Bancroft spoke in his favour (Mather 1986).

Disaster struck Brisbane during February 1893 in the form of a major flood followed by financial depression. Wild was one of two museum staff kept on when drastic retrenchments occurred as a consequence of the depression (Mather 1986). On May 27, 1893, the Wilds welcomed their first child, a daughter named Jessie Adelaide. During May, Wild made his first bryophyte collection in almost a year, collecting a *Dendroceros* found growing upon the branches and trunks of trees at Mt Tamborine. He later exhibited the fertile specimen at the July Natural History Society

meeting, commenting that it "agreed in every particular with Queensland examples of a species of the genus kindly communicated by Baron von Mueller, and which it was thought represented Stephani's species *Dendroceros Muelleri*"⁴⁹. Wild would later describe this as a new species: *Dendroceros subtropicus* (Wild 1893). This was Wild's only foray into the field of taxonomy.

Wild's role at the museum changed in September 1893 with his position transforming from insect collector to messenger on the salary of £104/yr⁵⁰. Due to a vacancy arising in the council of the Natural History Society, Wild was elevated into the role of vice president. He remained very active within the Natural History Society throughout 1894, often chairing meetings or exhibiting items. During October's meeting, Wild read a paper on Confectionary Pests related to the "beetles *Rhizopertha pusilla* and *Sylvanus surinamensis* found infesting different forms of chocolate met with in Brisbane in confectioners' trade samples"⁵¹.

The Wilds, now residing at Stoneleigh Street, Albion, welcomed their second daughter, Evelyn Kate on November 18, 1894. By 1895, Wild's position at the museum had once again become temporary where he was still performing the role of messenger. The Natural History Society convened a conversazione and microscopical display during August 1895. Of the ten microscopes provided by members for the "entertainment of the visitors", four were owned by Wild and displayed "chiefly botanical species, showing fresh water sponge with ova-bearing cells, paper mildew and fern sections"⁵². At the annual meeting of the Natural History Society held on January 23, 1896, Wild was elected as honorary treasurer⁵³. Wild was still employed as a messenger at the museum when he and Jessie welcomed their third daughter Vera Christina Hannah on October 28, 1897.

Wild also had interests outside of natural history including stamp collecting and chess. He was elected as "exchange superintendent" at the first meeting of the Brisbane Philatelic Society on October 28, 1897⁵⁴ and appears to have been a member of the Eagle Junction

Chess Club⁵⁵. Wild also appears to have been a teetotaller, appearing at various times in the councils of the Good Templars⁵⁶, Queensland Temperance Alliance⁵⁷ and later the Independent Order of Rechabites⁵⁸.

The economic depression of 1893 continued through the 1890s with the museum operating on a skeleton staff of five with everyone performing multiple tasks (Mather 1986). Wild spent his Easter of 1899 collecting some 150 insect specimens from the Toowoomba area (Mather 1986). In 1899, he was sent to Cunnamulla to undertake a mosquito collection to be forwarded to the British Museum (Mather 1986). Late in 1899, the museum relocated from William Street to the purpose built exhibition building at Bowen Park, Bowen Hills (Mather 1986).

By 1901, the museum's staff had increased to nine with Wild once again returned to permanent staff (Mather 1986). Wild successfully sought a change to his position title and on July 1, he was appointed to the museum as an entomologist on a salary of £150/annum⁵⁹ with de Vis' role redefined from curator to director (Mather 1986). Although now listed as an entomologist, Wild never published in entomology. Charles Robert Daniel, the Wild's forth child, was born on March 4, 1902. The following month saw another round of retrenchments with the museum staff reduced to de Vis, zoological collector K.Broadbent, Wild and mineralogist J.A.Smith (Mather 1986). By 1903, the growing Wild family had moved to Eliza Street in Noble Estate, Clayfield⁶⁰. Wild then became active in the 'Clayfield Progress Association', in regular attendance at their meetings.

De Vis' retirement from the director position of the museum was filled by the government of the day by promoting the 52 year old Wild to "Acting Director" effective from August 21, 1905⁶¹. This was accepted by the museum's board of trustees on August 26 (Mather 1986). Hence, the joiner originally from Manchester with no formal scientific training was placed in charge of Queensland's premier scientific institution. As Mather (1986) laments, "Wild appears to have been

a man of modest ambition and ability of whom too much was asked" and in an acting capacity, he directed the museum into a period of stagnation.

After the cessation of the Natural History Society sometime after 1896, Wild appeared to drift back to the Royal Society of Queensland, noted as displaying a "valuable exhibit of ethnological species found in New South Wales" during their monthly meeting in October 1906⁶². By 1909, his salary as Acting Director of the museum was up to £190/annum⁶³. If the collection date is correct, a specimen of the moss *Gigaspernum repens* (Hook.) Lindb., collected by Wild at Kangaroo Point during 1909 may be the last bryophyte specimen he made.

By 1910 the Queensland Government was becoming increasingly concerned at the lack of progress of the museum, with the then premier William Kidston writing to his contemporary in New South Wales asking if Robert Etheridge jnr, the curator of the Australian Museum in Sydney, would be available to undertake a review of the run-down museum and report back to him (Mather 1986). While Etheridge paid compliment to some of the museum's collection, his report was scathing of the building, the lack of labels, crowding of specimens, inadequate display furniture, arrangement of the material, preparation of the specimens, registration, storage, the level of staffing and the staff themselves, particularly Wild (Mather 1986).

As a result of Etheridge's review, Dr. Ronald Hamlyn-Harris, the 36 year old science and German master at Toowoomba Grammar School and a formally educated entomologist, was appointed by the government as the Director of the museum effective from October 1, 1910 (Mather 1986). Hamlyn-Harris was also the foundation president of the Toowoomba Field Naturalists' Club⁶⁴. Upon appointment he undertook to implement the recommendations made by Etheridge to revitalise the museum with the backing of the Kidston government (Mather 1986). He reorganised the museum's scientific work and the presentation of its collections, expanded its publications and arranged an

extensive programme of public lectures⁶⁴ essentially transitioning it from a mere collection of curios into a modern scientific institution. Three days after Hamlyn-Harris' appointment, Wild, in the absence of the director, received delegates of the Australian Ornithologists' Union meeting as visitors to the museum⁶⁵. The following day he departed with D.B.Fry of the Australian Museum on the federal trawler *Endeavour* bound for Port Curtis where they searched for new specimens of fish and marine invertebrates⁶⁶.

No longer Acting Director, Wild resumed his former position of insect collector on February 2, 1911 for a probationary period of three months (Mather 1986). Hamlyn-Harris was far from impressed with Wild and his time with the museum was clearly coming to an end. In late March 1911, the 58 year old Wild was dispatched alone by Hamlyn-Harris to primarily collect large insects from the Blackall Range region, north of Brisbane (Mather 1986). As it was entering the cooler months when insects, particularly large ones, are rarely found, Wild's progress was poor (Mather 1986). As the greater portion of his time in the past decade was office based, Wild was ill-prepared for this undertaking. His progressive misfortune and misery is evident in his numerous letters to Hamlyn-Harris during this time:

1st April (Landsborough): "I had a fall on the bank of the creek in my anxiety to secure a specimen",

10th April (Palmwoods): "I am sorry my efforts have not met with your approval. If the specimens are not in the locality in which I am collecting it is impossible to get them. As there was a dearth of large or even moderately sized insects at Landsborough during my stay there I turned my attention to capturing the smaller ones",

11th April (Palmwoods): "This seems to me to be an ideal spot for collecting. It is a pity it was not the end of September or beginning of October [as] the nights are very cold and I am afraid it will interfere with the collecting",

15th May (Nambour): "For more than a week I have been very unwell for many days did not know how to put one foot before another, for the last three days I have nothing to eat",

26th May (Maleny): "There was a bitter frost here this morning",

30th May (Maleny): "It is so cold that in the early morning I can hardly hold the gun" (Mather 1986).

On June 5, a fire swept through Wild's camp at Woodford destroying everything including his tent, clothing, food, and notebooks. A police enquiry into this event requested by Hamlyn-Harris concluded that the fire had originated from Wild's own camp fire (Mather 1986). A week later (June 12th) Wild wrote again to Hamlyn-Harris offering to accept a transfer to a position in another government department (Mather 1986).

On June 15, despite knowing full well that all of Wild's notebooks were destroyed in the Woodford fire, Hamlyn-Harris demanded a comprehensive report from Wild on the Blackall Range collecting trip. Wild's frustrations are evident in his response sent a few days later: "Much of my time was taken up through having to visit the local Post Office daily to receive or dispatch letters, or enquire at the Railway Station for parcels, or to dispatch parcels therefrom. Such visits were at very inconvenient times, mostly in the middle of the day. Owing to various disabilities under which I executed the collecting, including having to do my own cooking, fetching supplies, procuring water, the cold weather, frequent changes of camp, "which sometimes took days" and attempting to comply with your diverse memos, I consider the results are all that could be expected".

Despite Wild's offer to accept a transfer he was summarily dismissed from the museum, after Hamlyn-Harris opined to the undersecretary that "Mr Wild is simply wasting his time and ours" (Mather 1986). Thus, on July 31, 1911, Wild's 22 year association with the museum ended. As his obituary opines, he "was set aside with what appears to have been scant courtesy and scantier recognition of his valuable services"⁹.

Twilight Years (1912-1923)

After his dismissal from the museum, Wild completely turned his back on natural history,

returning briefly to his original trade. Still residing at Eliza Street, Clayfield, the 1912 electoral roll had Wild listed as a carpenter and Jessie performing "home duties"⁶⁷. By the following year, the Wild family had moved from Clayfield to Loudon Street, Sandgate with Charles listed as a joiner and Jessie as a shopkeeper⁶⁸. A number of advertisements during late 1914 and early 1915 had Wild attempting to sell or let various properties, including: a six room house at Clayfield⁶⁹, land and a furnished or unfurnished house at Sandgate⁷⁰, and a shop with dwelling at Sandgate⁷¹. By 1917, the Wild family had relocated to Rainbow Street, Sandgate with Charles being the proprietor of the local stationary business⁷². Wild's eldest daughter, Jessie married Hinton Johns with a "dainty wedding breakfast" served after the ceremony at the Wild residence⁷³. Later in April, Wild was advertising for a "pony, lady to drive" with applications directed to "Sandgate Central, opposite Post Office"⁷⁴.

The 1919 electoral roll had the Wild's still residing at Rainbow Street with Charles listed as an "agent" and Jessie as performing "house duties"⁷⁵. Wild's youngest daughter Vera wedded Walter Holman at the Sandgate Presbyterian Church on March 17, 1920⁷⁶. During July, 1921, Wild was advertising an unfurnished house to let for 25 shillings per week⁷⁷. This may have been the Rainbow Street residence as the following year Wild, Jessie, Evelyn and Charles jnr. were residing at Roche Street, Dalby⁷⁸ after Jessie purchased a newsagency and stationers shop there. On August 21, 1923 the 70 year old Wild presented as a patient in the Dalby Hospital⁷⁹ where he remained until his death on September 27⁸⁰. His death was attributed to "arbitrary disease"⁸⁰. Wild was buried the following day at Dalby Cemetery and accorded a Masonic burial by the brethren of the Dalby lodge of which he was a member⁸¹. Wild's obituary (**Fig. 3**) printed in the Dalby Herald offers an interesting perspective on Wild, written by someone who appears to have intimate knowledge of his life and times.

OBITUARY.

Mr Charles J. Wild.

There passed away at the Dalby Hospital on Thursday morning, in the person of Mr. Charles James Wild, a worthy student of Nature and an ardent naturalist, such as is rarely found outside the circles of learning and research, or the laboratory and the annex. Mr Wild was known to Dalby and district as an excellent citizen, and a man of kindly and generous nature, but his attainments in the world of science were known and recognised but by few. Circumstances over which he had no control, carried him out of his genial element, and the work for which he was so particularly adapted, and which, to the end was dearest in his heart, was denied him.

The late Mr Wild was born in Lancashire, England, in 1852, and very early exhibited his love for natural history. Botany, and entomology especially attracted him, but he was an ardent student of other branches of science, including archaeology and ethnology. His predilection for plant and insect life found him an enthusiastic member of many learned societies throughout England and Scotland, and he took an active part in the operations of the Manchester Microscopical Society, Berwick Field Naturalists' Society, Lancashire Botanists' Association, Forfarshire Naturalists' Society, and many others. In his capacity as a field naturalist, he was entrusted from time to time with the assembling and classification of many botanical collections, such as the well-known collection in connection with Owen's College, Manchester, and his work as such was sufficiently distinguished and original to attract to him some much coveted honors, such as a fellowship in the worldwide Linnean Society, the Royal Society of St. Petersburg, and similar distinctions from Scandinavia and the Netherlands.

For health reasons he came to Queensland in 1884, by the Ducal liner, "Duke of Devonshire", one of the first big vessels to venture up the Brisbane river, braving the mud banks and uncertain channels with which the waterway then abounded. After sometime spent with Dr. Bancroft in the southern districts, he took up the work of field collecting and arranging for the Brisbane Museum, then housed in the present Public Library. Upon its removal to its present excellent site at the Exhibition Hall, he acted as assistant curator, and afterwards as director of the Museum. In those days but little interest was taken by the Government in such educational work, and the Museum was allowed to struggle along upon a paltry allowance of a few hundred pounds a year, doled out with grudging hand. With the scanty funds available Mr. Wild succeeded in making the institution more worthy of the metropolis, but never reached anything like his ideal. He found worthy friends in Messrs Tryon and De Vis and others, and did much to help the State Botanist (Mr. Bailey). In his wonderful Catalogue of the Queensland Flora, in which will be found more than one species bearing the name of the gentleman who passed away yesterday, Mr. Wild was elected to the Royal Society of Queensland. He did excellent work for the state, as naturalists will admit but times changed, and some fourteen years ago, Mr. Wild was set aside with what appears to have been scant courtesy and scantier recognition of his valuable services leaving his curatorship for a stationery business at Sandgate.

That the marvellous mass of knowledge and the wonderful ability of the deceased should have been allowed to remain neglected and unavailed of is a cause for surprise which is by no means unmixed with sorrow and regret. It appears to be an example in our own time of "genius going a-begging"—a fault for which we are prone to sneer at the past.

A little over two years ago deceased came with his wife and family, to Dalby, where Mrs. Wild purchased a newsagency and stationers shop, and during his residence here he earned the respect and goodwill of all with whom he came in contact. He is survived by a wife and several children, two of whom Miss Evelyn Wild, and Mr. Charles Wild, Jun., reside here with their mother.

The funeral left deceased's late residence at noon to-day for the Dalby cemetery, where the burial took place. The Rev. R. L. Reid officiated at the grave side, and the deceased was also accorded a Masonic burial by the brethren of Lodge Sir Joshua Peter Bell, of which Lodge he was an esteemed member. Messrs. Johnston and Carter had charge of the funeral arrangements.

Fig. 3. C.J. Wild's obituary in The Dalby Herald (Qld), 28 September 1923.

Conclusion: Botanical Legacy

During his lifetime, Wild collected over 1100 plant specimens, the majority of which were bryophytes (939 specimens) (Fig. 4). These specimens are variously accessioned at the Herbarium of the University of Manchester (MANCH), Fielding-Druce Herbarium, University of Oxford (OXF), World Museum Liverpool (LIV), the British Museum of Natural History (BM), the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh (E), the British Bryological Society herbarium (BBSUK) housed at the National Museum of Wales, University of Wales (ABS), Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de la Ville de Genève (G), the Finnish Museum of Natural History (H), the New York Botanic Gardens (NY), the United States National Herbarium (US), the National Herbarium of New South Wales (NSW), the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL), and the Queensland Herbarium (BRI). Undoubtedly more of Wild's specimens will be uncovered as herbaria progressively database their collections and make them widely available and further duplicates of the types are documented. Many of Wild's UK bryophyte specimens are accessioned with the Queensland Herbarium (BRI) indicating that he kept a personal herbarium which he brought to the colony when he emigrated. Wild's collections of bryophytes from south-east Queensland are of particular importance since many specimens were collected from areas of vineforest from the greater Brisbane area which no longer exist. For example, Wild made significant collections from scrub areas in Ashgrove, Enoggera, Newmarket, Woolston and Pimpama. His bryophyte collections from the Wet Tropics represent the first significant collection of these plants from this species rich area of the state. For reasons unknown, he collected very few bryophytes after returning from north Queensland.

Commemorations

Wild is commemorated in the names of several bryophyte and fern species, in addition to a species of butterfly, a moth, a gall midge, and a fish.

Bryophytes

Numerous bryophyte taxa have been named for Wild and in all cases his collections were used as a type where the name was validly published. All are now reduced to synonymy:

Aulacopilum wildii Broth. ex Paris, Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 103 (1891), *nom. nud.* [= *Solmsiella solmsiellacea* (Müll. Hal. & Broth.) Pursell].

Barbula wildii Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 97. (1890); *Didymodon wildii* (Broth.) Broth., Nat. Pflanzenfam. I, 3: 407 (1902). **Type:** Queensland. DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT: Highfields, December 1888, C. Wild 21 (syn: H-BR 1292021, BM 001006605). [= *Didymodon tophaceus* (Brid.) Lisa].

Fissidens wildii Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 94 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Pimpama, August 1887, C. Wild 2 (holo: H-BR; iso: MEL, NSW; *fide* Seppelt & Stone 2016). [= *Fissidens curvatus* Hornsch. var. *curvatus*].

Frullania wildii Steph., *Hedwigia* 33: 169 (1894). **Type:** Australia: Queensland. DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT: Toowoomba, *s.dat.*, C. Wild 453 (lecto: G 18234; *fide* von Konrat & Braggins 2001). [= *Frullania pentapleura* Taylor].

Lejeunea wildii Steph., *Hedwigia* 28: 165 (1889), *Acrolejeunea wildii* Steph. ex Watts, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales 26: 215 (1901); *Ptychocoleus wildii* (Steph. ex Watts) Steph., Sp. Hepat. 5: 60 (1912). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Hamilton, July 1887, C. Wild s.n. (holo: G 15847; iso: BM, MANCH, NSW [H495 & H496]; *fide* Brown *et al.* 1992: 77). [= *Acrolejeunea securifolia* (Nees) Steph. & Watts].

Plagiobryum wildii Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 101 (1891), *Bryum wildii* (Broth.) Müll.Hal., Gen. Musc. Fr. 204 (1900). **Type:** Queensland. DARLING DOWNS DISTRICT: Highfields, December 1888, Wild s.n. (holo: H-BR 0561010; iso: BM, BRI [AQ717281], MEL, NSW; *fide* Spence & Ramsay 2006). [= *Plagiobryoides cellularis* (Hook.) J.R.Spence].

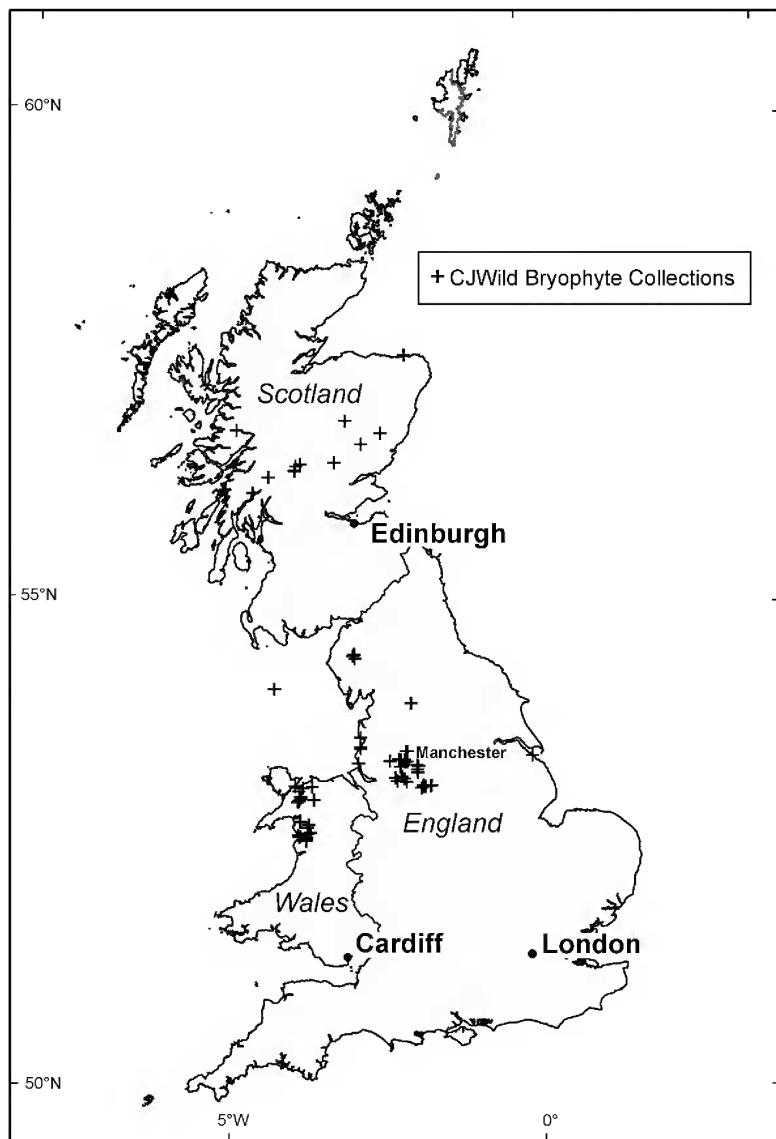


Fig. 4a. Distribution of bryophyte collections made by C.J.Wild from Great Britain

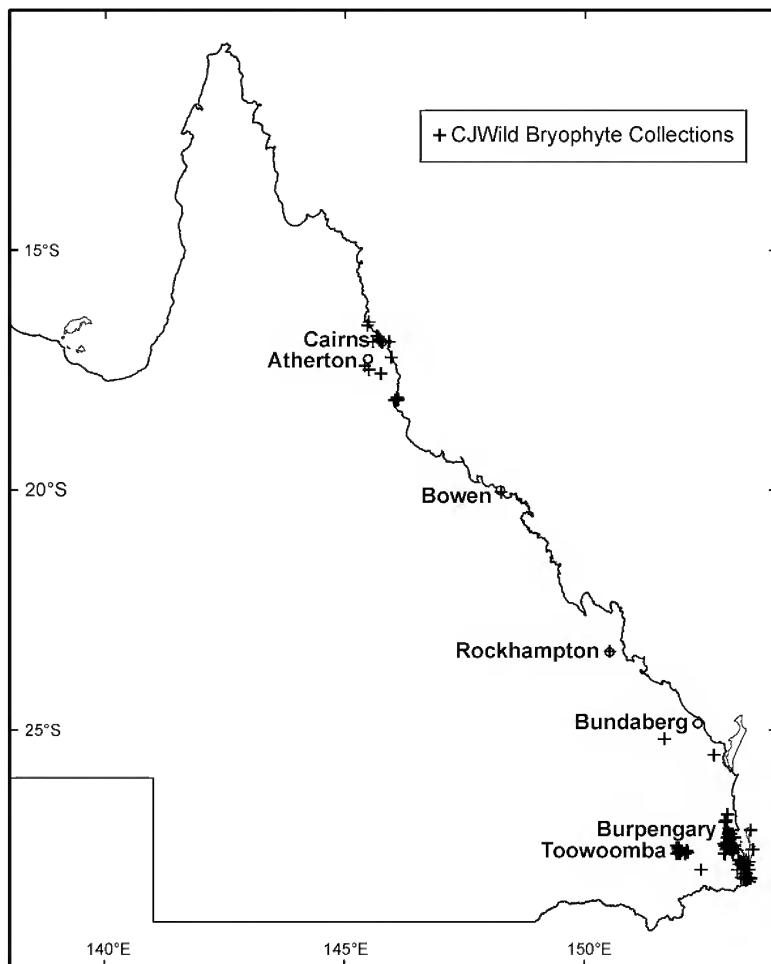


Fig. 4b. Distribution of bryophyte collections made by C.J.Wild from Queensland.

Wildia Müll.Hal. & Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 103 (1891). **Type species:** *W. solmsiellaea* Müll.Hal. & Broth. ex Broth.

Wildia solmsiellaea Müll.Hal. & Broth. ex Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 103 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Woolston Scrub, November 1888, C. Wild 18 (holo: H-BR 4432004; iso: P 0131494). [= *Solmsiella solmsiellacea* (Müll. Hal. & Broth.) Pursell].

Ferns

Two fern taxa have been named for Wild:

Asplenium wildii F.M.Bailey, Bot. Bull. Dept. Agric. Queensland 4: 20 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Daintree River, s.dat., C. Wild s.n. (holo: BRI [AQ144732]).

Trichomanes wildii F.M.Bailey, Bot. Bull. Dept. Agric. Queensland 4: 19 (1891); *Crepidopteris wildii* (F.M.Bailey) N.A.Wakef., Vict. Nat. 66: 59 (1949); *Crepidophyllum wildii* (F.M.Bailey) C.F.Reed, Taxon 4: 108 (1955);

Reediella wildii (F.M.Bailey) Pic.Serm., *Webbia* 24: 719 (1970). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: between Cairns and Herberton, in 1891, *C.J. Wild s.n.* (holo: BRI [AQ024772]; iso: NSW). [= *Crepidomanes humile* (G.Forst.) Bosch].

Fish

Rhycherus wildii Ogilby, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland* 20: 18 (1907). [= *Rhycherus filamentosus* (Castelnau, 1872)].

A bony fish was “Named for Charles James Wild, Acting Curator of the Queensland Museum, by whose courtesy I am permitted to make the above description”.

Butterflies and moths

Arhopala wildei Miskin, *Ann. Queensland Mus.* 1: [i]–xx 1–[93] [i]–ix (1891).

Ambulyx wildei Miskin, *Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensland* 8: 20–21 (1891).

The small oakblue butterfly and a moth respectively are also named for Wild, albeit a misspelling of his surname.

Flies and mosquitoes

Lasioptera wildi Skuse, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 15: 387 (1890).

A gall midge that he collected from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens.

Type specimens based on Wild collections

These cover only those that were validly published. A number of *nomina nuda* are also known, particularly for bryophytes; however, the *Wild* specimens referred to are not types.

Bryophytes

Cephalozia hirta Steph., *Sp. Hepat.* 3: 345 (1908). **Type:** Queensland. *s.dat.*, *C. Wild s.n.* (syn: G 00282621).

Fissidens arboreus Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 95 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Pimpama, August 1887, *C. Wild 5* (holo: H-BR?; iso: BRI, MEL, NSW 360698, NY; *fide* Stone (1990: 245). [= *Fissidens oblongifolius* var. *hyophilus* (Mitt.) Beever & I.G.Stone].

Fissidens calodictyon Broth., Öfvers. Förh. Finska Vetensk.-Soc. 33: 94 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Ashgrove, May 1888, *C. Wild 1* (holo: H-BR; iso: BRI, NSW 214600). [= *Fissidens beckettii* Mitt.].

Fossombronia papillata Steph., *Hedwigia* 28: 157 (1889). **Type:** Queensland. *s.dat.*, *C. Wild s.n.* (lecto: G 00121803; isolecto: BM 79844; *fide* Stotler et al. 2003: 138).

Frullania seriata Gottsche ex Steph., *Hedwigia* 28: 160 (1889). **Type:** Queensland, *s.dat.*, *C. Wild s.n.* (syn: G 00050876).

Acolea crassifolia (Carrington) Steph.; *Gymnomitrion crassifolium* Carrington, *Trans. & Proc. Botanical Soc. Edinburgh* 13: 461 (1879). **Type:** Scotland. Meal na Ptargnachan, Perthshire, August 1878, *C.J. Wild s.n.* (syn: MICH 514771).

Kurzia reversa (Carrington & Pearson) Grolle; *Lepidozia reversa* Carrington & Pearson, *J. Bot.* 27: 225 (1889). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Sandy Creek, Beenleigh, May 1887, *C. Wild s.n.* (syn: G 00280616).

Macromitrium mucronulatum Müll.Hal., *Hedwigia* 37: 146 (1898). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Burpengary, May 1888, *C. Wild s.n.* (holo: H-BR; iso: BM 000982643, NSW, P 0137808, P 0137809, P 0137810). [= *Macromitrium brevicaule* (Besch.) Broth.].

Wild only described one species, a hornwort.

Dendroceros subtropicus C.J.Wild, *Trans. Nat. Hist. Soc. Queensland* 1: 49 (1893). **Type:** Queensland. MORETON DISTRICT: Tamborine Mountain, May 1893, *C.J. Wild s.n.* (holo: BRI [AQ722116]).

Wild (1893) did not mention a type specimen, but merely indicated that the material came from Mt Tamborine. The above cited collection is the only specimen at BRI collected at Mt Tamborine by Wild and has his original label. It had been previously identified as *Dendroceros* sp. by C. Cargill in 1994.

Other type specimens based on Wild collections include the following:

Ferns

Alsophila australis var. *excelsa* F.M.Bailey, *Bot. Bull. Dept. Agric. Queensland* 2: 22 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: between Cairns and Herberton, in 1891, C.J. Wild s.n. (lecto: BRI [AQ0024668], *fide* Tindale 1956: 359). [= *Cyathea cooperi* (Hook. ex F.Muell.) Domin].

Microsorum australiense (F.M.Bailey) Bostock; *Polypodium superficiale* var. *australiense* F.M.Bailey, *Bot. Bull. Dept. Agric. Queensland* 4: 21 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: between Cairns and Herberton, in 1891, C.J. Wild s.n. (holo: BRI [AQ0024870]).

Trichomanes nanum var. *australiense* Domin, *Biblioth. Bot.* 20: 13 (1914). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: between Cairns and Herberton, July 1891, C.J. Wild s.n. (lecto: BRI [AQ0024761], *fide* Croxall 1975: 535). [= *Crepidomanes kurzii* (Bedd.) Tagawa & K.Iwats.].

Fungi

Astrosphaeriella picea (Shirley) Aptroot; *Arthopyrenia picea* Shirley, *Lich. Fl. Queensland* 4: 174 (1889). **Type:** Queensland: MORETON DISTRICT: Caboolture, *s.dat.*, C.J. Wild s.n. (holo: BRI [AQ0721401]).

Flowering Plants

Pterostylis depauperata F.M.Bailey, *Bot. Bull. Dept. Agric. Queensland* 4: 18 (1891). **Type:** Queensland. COOK DISTRICT: Near Cairns, in 1890, C.J. Wild s.n. (holo: BRI [AQ311959]).

Publications by Charles James Wild

Wild never published widely with all of his articles appearing within a six year period between 1888 and 1894 (see Wild references below).

Acknowledgements

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Wild's early life and drawing my attention to specific details contained within the UK Census results. Ilona Fors of the National Library of Finland Research Library is thanked for providing scans of the letters received by Dr. V.F.Brotherus from Wild. Susan Wright, Collection Manager of Terrestrial Environments (Entomology) at the Queensland Museum assisted with my queries regarding Wild's insect collections and any insects named in his honour. Meg Lloyd, librarian of the Queensland Museum is thanked for uncovering and scanning correspondence to and from Wild during his employment with the museum. Michael Mathieson is thanked for providing constructive comments on an earlier version of this article and Sarah Xu patiently restored the scanned image of Wild (**Fig. 1**). The Director and staff of the Queensland Herbarium have been most helpful in allowing access to specimens, the specimen database and documents.

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